

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A protein having the sequence of SEQUENCE I.D. No. 1 wherein the amino acid residues at one or more of positions 5, 11, 17, 19, 22, 30 and 41 are lysine, and the remainder of the residues at those positions wild-type.
2. (Currently Amended) A protein according to claim 1, wherein one or more of the amino acid residues at positions 5, 11, 17, 19, 22 and 41 are lysine.
3. (Currently Amended) A protein according to claim 2, wherein all of the amino acid residues at positions 5, 11, 17, 19, 22 and 41 are lysine.
4. (Currently Amended) A nucleotide sequence which codes for a the protein according to claim 1.
5. (Currently Amended) An RNA sequence ~~according to claim 4~~ that encodes the protein of claim 1.
6. (Currently Amended) A DNA sequence ~~according to claim 4~~ that encodes the protein of claim 1.

7. (Previously Presented) An expression cassette containing the DNA sequence of claim 6 operably linked to plant regulatory sequences which cause the expression of the DNA sequence in plant cells.
8. (Currently Amended) A bacterial transformation vector comprising an the expression cassette according to claim 7, operably linked to bacterial expression regulatory sequences which cause replication of the expression cassette in bacterial cells.
9. (Currently Amended) Bacterial cells containing as a foreign plasmid at least one copy of a the bacterial transformation vector according to claim 8.
10. (Previously Presented) Transformed plant cells containing at least one copy of the expression cassette of claim 7.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~Transformed~~ The transformed cells according to claim 10, further characterized in being cells of a monocotyledonous species.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~Transformed~~ The transformed cells according to claim 11, further characterized in being maize, sorghum, wheat or rice cells.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~Transformed~~ The transformed cells according to claim 10, further characterized in being cells of a dicotyledonous species.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~Transformed~~ The transformed cells according to claim 13, further characterized in being soybean, alfalfa, rapeseed, sunflower, tobacco or tomato cells.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A maize cell or tissue culture comprising~~ The transformed cells of ~~according to claim 11 12~~ wherein the cells are maize cells.
16. (Previously Presented) A transformed plant comprising transformed cells according to claim 10.
17. (Currently Amended) A method for killing and inhibiting plant pathogenic microorganisms which are susceptible to α -Hordothionin, ~~comprising~~ wherein the method comprises introducing into the environment of the pathogenic microorganisms an antimicrobial amount of a the protein according to claim 1.
18. (Currently Amended) A method for killing and inhibiting plant pathogens selected from the group consisting of: *Fusarium graminearum*, *Fusarium moniliforme*, *Diplodia maydis*, *Colletotrichum graminicola*, *Verticillium alboatrum*, *Phytophthora megaspermae f.sp. glycinea*, *Macrophomina phaseolina*, *Diaporthe phaseolorum caulivora*, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum*, and *Aspergillus flavus*, ~~comprising~~ wherein the method comprises introducing into the environment of the pathogenic microorganisms an antimicrobial amount of a the protein according to claim 1.
19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the environment of the pathogen is the tissues of a living plant.
20. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing the lysine content of a plant cell or seed, wherein the method comprises: a) transforming a plant cell by insertion of the expression cassette of claim 6; and b) ~~comprising~~ the step of causing the a-protein according to claim 1 to be expressed in the cell or seed.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing the lysine content of a plant, wherein the method comprises : a) transforming a plant cell by insertion of the expression cassette of claim 6; and b) comprising the step of causing the ~~a~~-protein according to claim 1 to be expressed in tissues of the plant.